THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Exports from India during April-December '08 was US$ 130.91 billion in comparison to US$ 113.48 billion in the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 15.4%. Global slowdown, in particular, in the United States and European countries have impacted on India's exports which witnessed decline in growth since October '08 onwards.

(c) and (d) A sample survey conducted by the Department of Commerce for 402 exporting units spread over 17 different sectors, primarily employment oriented, revealed job loss (both direct and indirect) to the tune of 1,09,513 persons during the period August '08 to Mid January '09.

Ban on import of toys from China

244. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently imposed a ban on the import of toys from China;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the toys manufactured in China and exported to many countries including India are toxic;

(d) if so, whether the toys from China flourishing the various markets in the country would also be banned for sale; and

(e) if not, how Government is going to protect children from such toys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The prohibition on import of toys from China has been imposed in response to concerns of health and safety faced by users of Chinese toys. The prohibition is an interim measure during which the Government intends to examine the issue in detail, for Notification of mandatory standards on toys will have a positive impact on the society in terms of availability of safe toys for children in India.

Impact of global recession on Indian industries

†245. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to global recession symptoms of sickness are being seen in several Indian industries;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.